

INSPECTOR GENERAL

76-0609

10 MAR 1976

Executive Registry

76-1394

STATINTL

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT : Watergate Briefing for Director

[REDACTED] I propose a Watergate briefing for Mr. Bush along the following lines:

1971 Support of White House

7 July 1971 - Ehrlichman of White House Staff requested DDCI Cushman to provide support for Howard Hunt.

22 July 1971 - Hunt approached Cushman who instructed TSD (now OTS) to provide disguise and alias documentation. When Hunt introduced 2nd man towards end of August this support terminated.

October 1971 - Hunt contacted other Agency employees for limited information.

Mid-July 1971 - David Young of the White House Staff phoned Director of Security Osborn to request psychological profile on Ellsberg. This approved by DCI Helms.

July-August 1971 - First draft profile completed on limited information available.

August-October 1971 - Additional information provided from Hunt in White House.

12 November 1971 - Final draft of profile delivered.

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Chronology of Investigations

17 June 1972 - Arrests at Watergate, with former CIA employees.

19 June 1972 - DCI Helms Morning Meeting statement that FBI would conduct investigation and that CIA would provide information in response to requests, but would not conduct any investigation of its own.

23 June 1972 - Haldeman instructions to DDCI Walters to have FBI terminate Mexico City investigation.

October 1972 - Assistant U.S. Attorney Silber requests information concerning Howard Hunt and Gordon Liddy. Mr. Colby assigned Office of Security Exec [] to conduct inquiry in response to these questions.

February 1973 - Ervin Committee commences.

Late April 1973 - Ellsberg trial reveals Hunt break-in of offices of Ellsberg's psychiatrist in September 1971.

14 May 1973 - Inspector General instructed to investigate CIA technical support for Hunt in July-August 1971 and preparation of Ellsberg psychological assessment in summer and autumn of 1971.

May 1973 - Senate Armed Services Committee hearings.

16 and 21 November 1973 - St. George's Testimony.

May 1973 - House Armed Services Committee hearings on alleged CIA involvement in Watergate. (Subsequent hearings February, March, June and July 1974).

May-June 1973 - Senate Appropriations Committee hearings.

Issues of CIA Involvement

1. Was there advance CIA knowledge of the Watergate break-in? This question was first raised because former CIA employees were involved.

2. Did CIA have advance knowledge of the break-in at the psychiatrist's office? This question arose because the break-in closely followed the supply of Hunt with disguise and alias documentation in July and August 1971.

3. Was CIA involved in the cover up? This question arose out of the White House attempt to have CIA block the FBI investigation in Mexico City. Suspicions were fed by various rumors and reporting by the press.

All of the individuals involved in the break-ins and the cover up have been arrested and tried and their testimony is a matter of record. Internal CIA investigations have found no knowledge of involvement.

Cooperation with the Congressional Committees

Both the House and Senate Armed Services committees conducted inquiries into CIA involvement in "Watergate." While there was criticism of various CIA activities, the Agency was absolved from involvement in the break-ins or cover up.

Senator Baker, a member of the Senate Select Committee chaired by Senator Ervin, conducted an independent investigation. While he was furnished some 700 documents, and examined some 26 Agency witnesses, he issued a report on 2 July 1974 asking a number of provocative questions that he felt had not been answered satisfactorily, with the apparent implication of some Agency involvement. The Rockefeller Commission has subsequently concluded that CIA was not involved, although criticizing certain aspects of its conduct, including criticism that an early investigation was not made into the matter.

In connection with the current investigations two of Senator Baker's assistants during his earlier investigation have reviewed Office of Security Watergate files as well as those in the Office of the Inspector General. To date they have indicated that had they been given the same access during the Ervin Committee inquiry the investigation would have followed a different course.

They indicate that they have answered satisfactorily most of the questions that they had, and seem to accept the view that the Agency was not involved in nor did it have knowledge of either of the two break-ins, and that it was not involved in the cover up. They indicate that Senator Baker plans some statement on Watergate at the conclusion of the present investigation and the implication is that he will reflect this opinion. He may say that had we been more cooperative at the time this difficulty could have been avoided.

Senator Baker's assistants indicate that they still have questions about Mr. Helms, as distinguished from the Agency, and one may speculate that any final statement by Senator Baker will reflect this criticism.

Other Investigations

There was also extensive cooperation between the Agency and the Department of Justice and the Special Prosecutor.

Presentation

It is intended that [redacted] and I attempt this briefing together, making the presentation, and answering questions. I will try and give a very condensed version of the Watergate chronology, with [redacted] reviewing the details or work with the various Congressional committees.

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Deputy Inspector General